



**U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
1225 New York Ave. NW – Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005**

**STATEMENT BY COMMISSIONER GRACIA HILLMAN
OF THE U.S. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION
ON THE “EAC REPORT ON VOTING FRAUD AND VOTER INTIMIDATION”**

Washington, DC – December 7, 2006: Today the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) voted on the findings of its preliminary study of voting fraud and voter intimidation and accepted recommendations to conduct a comprehensive study on election crimes. The findings and recommendations are in an EAC report, “Election Crimes: An Initial Review and Recommendations for Future Study,” which is based largely on the research of two consultants and includes a working definition of election crimes that encompasses voting fraud and voter intimidation. This report and its appendices are available at www.eac.gov.

Today’s vote marks EAC’s acceptance of the core recommendation that voting fraud and voter intimidation deserve more than just anecdotal assessment but rather a comprehensive, nationwide survey and study of the information that is available from election officials, investigatory agencies, prosecutorial bodies and the courts on the number and types of complaints lodged with the authorities and the disposition of those complaints.

With today’s actions, EAC moves toward the next steps, which include the first nationwide, comprehensive study of election crimes based on hard data, with findings to be released to the public by the end of 2007.

It is my expectation that based on the findings of the comprehensive study, EAC will have useful data that can inform future discussions and debates about voting fraud, voter intimidation and other election crimes. It is my hope that based on the data, EAC will move forward early in 2008 to release suggested standards and/or best practices that will be useful to election officials and prosecuting authorities as they collect and assess claims and acts of election crimes, and bring offenders to justice. I also hope EAC will continue to collect and assess data on election crimes from future federal election cycles.

While I am pleased with the direction that we are taking on this important topic, I am also aware that some have voiced their concerns and raised questions about the delay EAC encountered in releasing this report. As we have explained, EAC’s process to review the consultants’ findings took far longer than anticipated. Hindsight is twenty-twenty vision and we at EAC now understand that we should have handled the delay differently. The resulting situation from the delay was both personally and professionally embarrassing for me. I truly hope this is the one and only time EAC will ever experience this type of difficult circumstance.

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